

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 05115 062125Z

ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2555

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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UNCLAS CARACAS 5115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR BEXP VE

SUBJECT: VIASA TO PURCHASE A300 AIRBUS

1. SOURCES WITHING VENEZOLANA INTERNACIONAL DE AVIACION SA (VIASA), VENEZUELA'S FLAG CARRIER, HAVE TOLD EMBASSY PERSONNEL THAT THE AIRLINE HAS MADE THE INTERNAL DECISION TO BUY TWO OR THREE A300-B4 AIRBUSES AND IS NOW REQUESTING GOV AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO.

2. THE AIRLINE WILL PROBABLY ORDER THIS EQUIPMENT EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR DELIVERIEES IN 1980. IN THE MEANTIME, THE AIRLINE WILL SELL ITS TWO DC-8-53S AND ONE CD-8-63, WHILE KEEPING ITS DC-8-63F IN OPERATION FOR A WHILE LONGER. AFER DELIVERY OF THE A300'S VIASA'S FLEET WILL CONSIST OF SIX DC-10-30S (INCLUDING THREE NEW AIRCRAFT, DELIVERY TO BEGIN IN 1979) AND THREE A-300B4S.

3. THIS DECISION WAS BASED PARTLY ONOPERATIONAL/ECONOMIC FACTORS, SUCH AS TWO ENGINES VERSUS THREE ON THE L1011 AND FUTURE BOEING MODELS. ALSO,THE CONSIDERABLE COMMONALITY OF PARTS WITH THE DC-10 WAS ONE OF THE DECIDING FACTORS.

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4. THE AIRLINE INTENDS TO SIGN A MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR THE A300 WITH EASTERN AIRLINES.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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